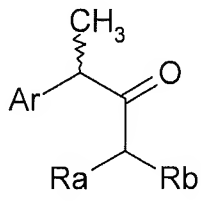
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (**Currently Amended**) A method for the treatment of diseases that involve IL-8 induced human PMNs chemotaxis comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising (*R,S*)-1-Arylethylketone compounds of formula I and their single (*R*) and (*S*) enantiomers:




(I)

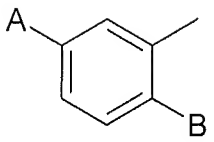
wherein:

- Ar represents phenyl, optionally substituted by one to three substituents, which are the same or different from one another, selected from:

halogens, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy, hydroxy, $C_1$-$C_4$-acyloxy, phenoxy, cyano, nitro, amino, $C_1$-$C_4$-acylamino, halogen-$C_1$-$C_3$-alkyl, halogen $C_1$-$C_3$-alkoxy, benzoyl;

~~or Ar represents 4-thienoyl-phenyl, 4-(1-oxo-2-isoindolinyl)-phenyl, 3-chloro-4-(2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)phenyl, 6-methoxy-β-naphthyl, 1-hydroxy-phenyl-1-methyl;~~

~~or Ar represents a residue of formula III:~~

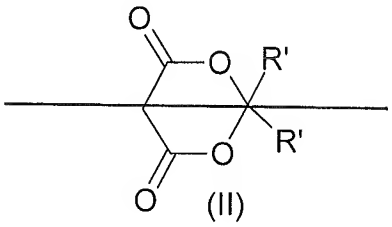



(III)

wherein A is benzyl, phenoxy, benzoyl, benzoyloxime, 1-hydroxy-phenyl-1-methyl, B is hydroxy, $C_1$-$C_4$-acyloxy or a group of formula -O-C(=S)-N($CH_3$)$_2$, or -S-C(=O)-N($CH_3$)$_2$;

- Ra and Rb are independently chosen in the group of hydrogen, linear or branched $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, phenyl, ~~α-or β-naphthyl, 2, 3, 4-pyridyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkylphenyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl(α-or β-naphthyl)~~, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl(2, 3, 4-pyridyl), ~~cyano (-CN), carboxyamide, carboxyl or carboxyesters of formula $CO_2$R" wherein R" is the residue of a linear or branched $C_1$-$C_6$ aliphatic alcohol, a phosphonate PO(OR")$_2$ wherein R" is as defined above, a group of formula -X-($CH_2$)$_n$-Z, wherein X is a CO, SO, $SO_2$ group; Z is H, *tert*-butyl, isopropyl, $CO_2$R", CN, phenyl, α-or β-naphthyl, 2, 3, 4-pyridyl, $C_3$-$C_6$ cycloalkyl, NH-BOC, $NH_2$; n is zero or an integer from 1 to 3;~~

~~or Ra and Rb, with the carbon atom to which they are bound, form a cyclic residue 4, 6-dioxo-1, 3-dioxanyl-2, 2-disubstituted of formula II:~~




(II)

~~wherein R' is methyl or ethyl, or the two groups R' form a cyclohexane or cyclopentane ring,~~.

2. (**Currently Amended**) The method according to claim 1 wherein Ar represents a residue 4-isobutyl-phenyl, ~~3-benzoyl-phenyl, 5-benzoyl-phenyl, 2-acetoxy-phenyl, 3-phenoxy-phenyl~~.

3. (**Currently Amended**) The method according to claim 1 or 2 in which the compound is selected from:

~~methyl (R)(-)-4-[(4'-isobutyl)phenyl]-3-oxopentanoate;~~

~~methyl (S)(+)-4-[(4'-isobutyl)phenyl]-3-oxopentanoate;~~

~~(R,S) 4-[(4'-isobutyl)phenyl]-3-oxopentanoic acid;~~

~~methyl (R)(-)-4-[(3'-benzoyl)phenyl]-3-oxopentanoate;~~

(R)(-)-3-[(4'-isobutyl)phenyl]butan-2-one;

(S)(+)-3-[(4'-isobutyl)phenyl]butan-2-one;

~~(R)-3-[(3'-benzoyl)phenyl]butan-2-one;~~

~~(R)-dimethyl 3-(4-isobutyl-phenyl)-2-oxobutan-1-phosphonate;~~

~~(S)(±)-dimethyl 3-(3'-phenoxy-phenyl)-2-oxo-butyl-1-phosphonate;~~

~~(R)-2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-pentan-3-one;~~

~~(S)-(+)-ethyl-4-[(3'-benzoyl)phenyl]-3-oxopentanoate;~~

~~(S)-(+)-3-[(3'-benzoyl)phenyl]butan-2-one;~~

~~(R)-2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-4-phenyl-butan-3-one;~~

~~(R)-2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-5-phenyl-pentan-3-one;~~

~~(R)-2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-5-(pyrid-3-yl)-pentan-3-one;~~

~~(R,S)-5-(4'-isobutylphenyl)-hexan-2,4-dione;~~

~~(R,S)-1-phenyl-5-(4'-isobutylphenyl)-2,4-hexandione;~~

~~(R,S) 1-(pyrid-2-yl)-4-(4'-isobutylphenyl)-1, 3-pentadione;~~

~~(R) 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-7-*tert*-butoxycarbonylamino-heptan-3-one;~~

~~(R,S) 2-(4'-isobutylphenyl)-3-oxo-butyl, methyl-sulfoxide;~~

~~(R,S) 2-(3'-benzoylphenyl)-3-oxo-butyl, methyl-sulfoxide;~~

~~(R,S) 2-(4'-isobutylphenyl)-3-oxo-butyl, methyl-sulfone;~~

~~(R,S) 2-(3'-benzoylphenyl)-3-oxo-butyl, methyl-sulfone;~~

~~(R,S) 2-(3'-phenoxyphenyl)-3-oxo-butyl, methyl-sulfone;~~

~~(R,S) 2-(4'-isobutylphenyl)-3-oxo-butyl, phenyl-sulfone;~~

~~(R)(-) 4-(4'-pyridyl)-2-[(4"-isobutyl)phenyl]butan-3-one;~~

~~(R) (+)-5-[2-(4-isobutyl-phenyl)-propion-1-yl]-2, 2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxan-4, 6-dione;~~

~~(R) 5-[2-(3'-benzoyl-phenyl)-propion-1-yl]-2, 2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxan-4, 6-dione.~~

~~(R)-2-[4-(1-oxo-2-isoindolinyl)phenyl]-3-oxo-valeramide;~~

~~(R)-2-[4-(1-oxo-2-isoindolinyl)phenyl]-3-oxo-valeronitrile;~~ .

4. (**Previously Presented**) The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is at least one of

(R)(-) methyl 4-[(4'-benzoyloxy)phenyl]-3-oxopentanoate,

(R)(-) methyl-4-[(4'-isopropylsulfonyloxy)phenyl]-3-oxopentanoate and

(R)(-) methyl-4-{[4'-(2"-ethyl)phenylsulfonylamino]phenyl}-3-oxopentanoate,

.

5. (**Previously Presented**) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the steric configuration of the carbon atom to which the residue Ar is bound corresponds to the enantiomer (*R*).

6. (**Currently Amended**) The method according to claim 1, wherein said composition further ~~comprising~~ comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

7. (**Canceled**)

8. (**Previously Presented**) The method according to claim 1, wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, ulcerative cholitis, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), idiopathic fibrosis, glomerulonephritis, bollous pemphigo or for the prevention and the treatment of tissue damage caused by ischemia and reperfusion.